

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY: East Germany DATE DISTR.: 10 April 1953  
SUBJECT: VEB Transformatoren und Roentgenwerk Dresden NO. OF PAGES: 2  
(TRARO) Production and Personnel  
PLACE ACQUIRED: 25X1A NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)  
DATE OF INFO. SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The VEB Transformatoren und Roentgenwerk Dresden (TRARO) (Transformer and X-ray Equipment Manufacturing Plant)(formerly Koch & Sterzel), Dresden N 30, Overbeckstrasse 4, consists of two divisions, the one for X-ray equipment and the other for transformers and allied equipment. The plant employs about 3,500 persons.

Production of Stosspruefkaskaden (cascade power supply test equipment)

2. The transformer division of TRARO has produced about five of these large installations since 1947. They consist of a series of large transformers mounted one above the other, and separated from each other and from the ground by large porcelain insulators. Atop the uppermost transformer is a copper globe. The installation is mounted on wheels for mobility. The first four were sent to the USSR. A fifth was sent to Prague in 1952.1
3. The first such installation developed 1.5 million volts. It was mounted in the high-tension hall of the TRARO plant. It was delivered to the Russians in November or December 1947.
4. The second, third, and fourth installations were mounted on the premises of the Niederwartha power plant (Pumpspeicherwerk) just outside of Dresden. This power plant was dismantled by the Russians in 1945; the empty halls thus left have been used ever since by TRARO for mounting very large installations, including Stosspruefkaskaden. The Soviet Construction-Technical Bureau 21 (XTB-21), which had its main office in a building in Overbeckstrasse in Dresden, adjacent to TRARO, was in direct charge of the operations at the Niederwartha power plant from 1947 to 1949. The second Stosspruefkaskadenanlage was set up under Soviet supervision in the summer of 1948 at Niederwartha. The exact voltage developed by the second, third, and fourth installations is unknown; it is believed that they varied from 1.5 to 2.5 million volts. Over-all height of the installations was about 18 meters. (Fnu) Schurig, an engineer, was in charge of the Germans at Niederwartha, and remained there after the Russians left. He is still there with a staff of about 50 men.
5. The last such installation produced by TRARO was finished about 30 November 1952 and was delivered to Prague in early December. It developed a voltage of three million volts. This one was mounted in the open air, on the main premises of TRARO in the Overbeckstrasse.

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6. Following is a description of the details of the Stosspru-fkaekademie. The transformers used were Koch & Sterzel type COV (high-voltage transformers). They were each about two meters high and three meters square. Each was supported by four porcelain insulators, one placed at each corner. The insulators were brown, with symmetrical ripples, measuring 1.5 meters in height and 40 to 50 centimeters in diameter. The copper globe atop the uppermost transformer was supported on a slender stem. [redacted] the input voltage on the three-million volt installation amounted to 100,000 volts.

7. Transformer construction. Transformers of 30 KVA and over are usually considered to be large transformers (Grosstransformatoren) at TRARO. The largest transformer currently made by the plant has a capacity of 75 KVA. Five of the latter size transformers were produced in 1952, oil-cooled, and delivered as reparations to the USSR. Also in 1952, the Russians obtained from TRARO at least seven hundred infinitely variable transformers (Stufenlose Regeltransformatoren), type R-4.6-B. One such order for export to the USSR in 1952 amounted to 289 of these. They have a capacity of 4.6 KVA. They were mounted into switch-boards (Schaltpulse) on the premises of the former Union Werke, Stalin Allee, Radebeul. The Russians have been obtaining about 700 of these units per year for the last several years.
8. The following are known Soviet and German acceptance and testing personnel for Transformer Division of TRARO: There are about ten Soviet acceptance engineers who regularly visit TRARO to accept goods. The names of these individuals are unknown, but following are descriptions of three:

a) Soviet acceptor for variable transformers (Regler) and for small installations (Kleinanlagen) such as switch-boards. This man was referred to by the German employees as "Chiang Kai-shek" because of his Oriental appearance. He is about 42; about 175 cm. tall; thin; dark brown hair; wears black horn-rimmed glasses; Oriental eyes; always wears a dark brown coat without belt and a black felt hat. He speaks broken German. He has been coming to TRARO since mid-1952.

b) Soviet acceptor who often accompanies (a) on visits to TRARO, is 45 to 50 years of age; short and fat; has greying hair with a bald area on top of his head.

c) Current transformers (Stromwandler) were accepted by an unidentified Soviet engineer who came to TRARO very seldom; he is over 35, stands about 175 cm., and has greying blond hair.

9. Chief of the transformer testing section (Prueffeldabteilung) at TRARO is Theodor von Schieszel. Under him are the following group chiefs:

High-tension: Dr. (fmu) Winter;

Large transformers: Georg Doering. Doering is assisted by four men, two of whom are (fmu) Gommlich and (fmu) Klotsche;

Medium transformers: Werner Graebner;

Current voltage transformers (Strom-spennungswandler): (fmu) Guenter;

Variable transformers and load switches: (fmu) Thieme assisted by (fmu) Schaefer;

Switch-boards and small installations: (fmu) Ehrlich assisted by four men including (fmu) Zueckmann and (fmu) Koppel.

10. X-Ray Division. The only thing known about the X-Ray Division is that there was a shipment of five boxes about 15 December 1952. These boxes measured about 2 x 0.75 x 0.75 meters, were marked with red crosses, and looked in every respect like the cases for field X-Ray sets manufactured by Koch & Sterzel for the German Army during the war. These boxes were shipped to the USSR. It is believed that TRARO did not deliver any of these sets between the end of the war and 1952.

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[redacted] Comments:

1. [redacted]

2. [redacted]

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